

**STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING**  
**6:30 PM January 14, 2009**  
**Stephenson County Board Room**

The Stephenson County Board met in the Courthouse on Wednesday January 14, 2009. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Hilton gave the Invocation and Mr. Gilmour led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called the roll. Members present; Samuel Newton, Bennie Brown, Charles Hilton, Jeffrey Mikkelsen, Debra Devine, Sheila Hooper, Todd McKenna, Peter Willging, Donald Parker, John Blum, Vicki Hooper, James Graham, Linda Dotson, Thomas Gilmour, Lynn Koch, Brenda Boynton, George Kinney, Salvatore Detente, and Forrest Senn. Members absent: Alvin Wire, Jim Kuhlmeier and Andrew Kuhlemeier. Nineteen members present. Three members absent.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the agenda as received. Second by Mr. Willging. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the agenda as received carried unanimously.* (Noted arrival of Mr. Wire)

**APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2008 MEETING MINUTES:** Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2008 meeting as received. Second by Ms. Dotson. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion to approve the minutes as received. *Motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2008 meeting as received carried unanimously.*

**CLAIMS ON THE CLERK'S DESK:** Ms. V. Hooper made a motion that all claims on the Clerk's desk be referred to the proper committees without reading. Second by Mr. Senn. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion that all claims on the Clerk's desk be referred to the proper committees without reading carried unanimously.*

**COMMUNICATIONS:** The Clerk reported the following communications had been received;

- Public Defender Monthly Report for December, 2008; 290 New Cases, 238 Cases Closed and Income to Public Defender Fund \$1,884.01
- Public Defender Year-End Report for 2008; 3,368 Total New Cases, 2,969 Total Cases Closed and Total Income to the Public Defender Fund \$31,281.60
- Violent Crime Victims Compensation Act Monthly Report for December
- Information from the Office of the Attorney General outlining general requirements of the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act
- 2007 Fiscal Responsibility Report Card which summarizes financial data for Counties, Municipalities, Townships and Special Purpose Districts in the State of Illinois

Ms. V. Hooper made a motion to approve all communications and place on file. Second by Mr. Senn. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve all communications and place on file carried unanimously.* (Noted arrival of Mr. A. Kuhlemeier)

**PRESENTATION BY DAWN TOAY, NEW STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT AT HCC:** Chairman Blum reported Ms. Toay will give her presentation at the February County Board Meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:** No old business reported

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** Sheriff Snyders reported the ban on cell phones is in effect. One citation has been issued. His department is doing background investigations on four candidates for Deputy Sheriff and Correctional Officer positions. The Sheriff has received the authority to hold jail inmate commissary funds against pending fines and fees. He reported that the first garnishment has been served. It has been determined that the death of an inmate at the jail was related to major health problems.

**HIGHWAY REPORT:** Mr. Isbell presented the following;

**HD 09-01 Resolution #09-01-1633;** restricting weight of various axled vehicles on County roads and highways. Mr. Koch made a motion to approve HD 09-01. Second by Ms. Boynton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 09-01 Resolution #09-01-1633 restricting weight of various axled vehicles on County roads and highways carried unanimously.*

**HD 09-02 Resolution #09-01-1634;** transferring funds from County Bridge Fund to County Highway Fund. Mr. Koch made a motion to approve HD 09-02. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 09-02 Resolution #09-01-1634 transferring \$75,000 from County Bridge Fund to County Highway Fund carried unanimously.*

**HD 09-03 Resolution #09-01-1635;** awarding low bid of \$8,386.45 to Illowa Culverts & Supply for Pipe Culverts, Section 09-00000-00-PC. Mr. Koch made a motion to approve HD 09-03. Second by Ms. Boynton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 09-03 Resolution #09-01-1635 awarding low bid to Illowa Culverts & Supply carried unanimously.*

**HD 09-04 Resolution # 09-01-1636;** awarding low bids for Signs and Posts, Section 09-00000-00-SG. Mr. Koch made a motion to approve HD 09-04. Second by Mr. Wire. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 09-04 Resolution #09-01-1636 awarding low bids for Signs and Posts carried unanimously.* Discussion was held on jurisdictional responsibility of signage.

(Noted arrival of Mr. J. Kuhlmeier)

**ZONING REPORT:** Mr. Groves presented the following;

**Minor Subdivision Resolution #09-01; Final Plat for Muto Sub-Division.** Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve Resolution #09-01; Final Plat for Muto Sub-Division. Second by Ms. S. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the Minor Subdivision Resolution #09-01; Final Plat for Muto Sub-Division carried unanimously.*

**Minor Subdivision Resolution #09-02; Final Plat for Elaine Hayunga Subdivision.** Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve Resolution #09-02; Final Plat for Elaine Hayunga Subdivision. Second by Mr. Senn. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Minor Subdivision Resolution #09-02; Final Plat for Elaine Hayunga Subdivision carried unanimously.*

**PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL:** No report

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT:** No report

**9-1-1 REPORT:** Mr. Groves reported the Board is working on the "Signage" Ordinance. Cost of the project is estimated at \$250,000 without installation.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Mr. Beintema reported on a multi-state outbreak of infections caused by Salmonella Typhimurium. As of the end of December 2008, four persons in Illinois matched one of the outbreak strains. Walk-in flu shots are still available at the Health Department. Mr. Beintema informed the Board, the infection rate peaks the second week of February. The Smoke Free Illinois language has passed the house but must still be concurred within the Senate before being sent to the Governor. The Health Department is one of 25 in the nation awarded a FQHC planning Grant. The advisory committee has met to discuss direction. The FQHC Needs Assessment Survey was reviewed and the consensus of the County Board was in support of the Survey. The Animal Control Report and Food Service Scores for the month of December were distributed.

**PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Probation Director Pauley reported the detention costs are over \$19,000 in the first two months of the budget year. He informed the Board we will see an increase of funding needed for detention and placement costs once 17 year-olds are considered juveniles instead of adults. The monthly Probation Department Report and Domestic Violence Surveillance Policies and Procedures for Stephenson County were distributed.

**STATE'S ATTORNEY REPORT:** No report

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Chairman Blum presented the following report;

- The new board of directors for the Northwest Illinois Development Alliance met on January 6, 2009 and elected new officers. The new officers are: Mike Clark – Chairman, Adam Holder – Vice Chairman, Dan Fishburn – Secretary, and Doug Freidag – Treasurer. The board then approved a change to the bylaws giving Stephenson County and the City of Freeport two votes each. This gives government 4 votes and the private sector 9 votes. The next major step for NIDA is to establish the committee structure that will implement the economic development strategy required to retain and attract investment and jobs to our community and region. Chairman Blum announced he is appointing Mr.

Graham as the second representative from Stephenson County on the NIDA Board. He welcomes any of your participation on the committees being formed.

- We are working with NIDA, RC&D, CEDS, and DCEO to generate a list of “shovel-ready” projects for consideration by the new administration as vehicles to promote economic stimulus. In addition to US 20 and AMTRAK service from a regional perspective we have canvassed the county to determine projects that are engineered and ready to start before summer 2009. All of the phases of Mill Race Industrial Park are engineered and ready to start so they are on the list. In addition we requested funds for road and bridge repair across the county along with intersection improvements at Pearl City Road and Kiwanis/Forest Roads. We have received projects from Freeport, Orangeville, and Lena. NIDA is working to include as many potential projects as possible from all jurisdictions within the County.
- The Regional CEDS Committee is working to update the 5-year planning document. Our local CEDS is providing input in this process. The access to broadband fiber has emerged as a primary goal of the group in support of future economic development. The group met on this topic last week and a number of representatives from Stephenson County were present.
- We have not heard from the EDA concerning our increase in the grant to \$2.2 million. It seems EDA is waiting on the new administration to be sworn in and make clear what role they will play in the upcoming economic stimulus effort.
- Project Cat continues to be evaluated by DCEO. It seems the reason for the delay is positive. The Illinois Finance Authority has developed a renewable energy bond program that will enhance financing options for projects like Cat. Cat is the first project that qualifies for this new program and DCEO is coordinating with IFA on the package. The extra agency coordination is taking a bit more time.
- GVA-Williams submitted their marketing report to the Planning and Development Committee on January 5, 2009. A copy of this report was distributed for your information.
- We received the Northwest Illinois Labor Force Summary from IDES. It indicates that the unemployment rate in Stephenson County was 7.5% in October 2008 and stands at 8.1% in November 2008. It was 4.7% one year ago. The City of Freeport currently has an unemployment rate of 9.4%. These numbers have not yet been seasonally adjusted.
- The Vision 2020 Steering Committee met again on January 12, 2009 and began the process of updating the future actions and expected outcomes for the future. We collected comments from all participants and they appear on a planning chart that I have copied and placed on your desk. The two columns on the right of each page contain the unedited comments and we worked to boil down these comments to a prioritized and doable list that should be ready in the next two weeks. Please look over this list and make any suggestions you have to me for inclusion in the work.
- The Local Workforce Investment Board was scheduled to meet this morning, but the meeting was canceled due to the weather. We will meet again the second Wednesday of February. The process continues to locate a replacement for Kate Ramsay as the administrator of the LWIB. She continues to work with us on an interim basis until the replacement is named.
- The City of Freeport is proposing a new Tax Increment Financing District called the West Avenue Redevelopment Project Area. The initial Joint Review Board meeting is scheduled to be held on January 23, 2009 at 10 a.m. at City Hall. Chairman Blum announced he is appointing Mr. Mikkelsen as the County’s representative at this meeting. The public hearing for the redevelopment plan is scheduled for March 2, 2009 at 6 p.m. at City Hall. Copies of the City’s plan were distributed for your review. Since the City has scheduled a JRB meeting before the Planning and Development Committee meets our only input to the process will be through Mr. Mikkelsen. Please get your concerns, if any, to him before the scheduled meeting.
- The Liquor Commission met on December 17, 2008 and approved license applications for 2009. The new licenses and the updated ordinance were sent to all license holders.
- Our community should be greatly concerned about the economic viability of our local Titan Tire facility. There is a growing concern by management that there is no profitability in this plant without some

revisions to the work rules and collective bargaining agreement. Locally, government is at a disadvantage mounting any effort to intervene or mediate this growing dispute. It is obviously an issue between labor and management. However, our community stands to lose approximately 500 jobs and the \$50 million payroll this plant currently generates. Chairman Blum stated he cannot say who is right or wrong or who should give and take, but it is clearly an issue that will have far reaching effects on our local economy if it is not positively resolved. He sent the following note to Congressman Manzullo on January 8, 2009:

“Friction has been building between Morry Taylor, the owner of Titan Tire, and the United Steel Workers, led by Steve Vanderheyden, over work rule and wage issues that are preventing the plant from making money and competing. Morry states the plant has not made money since he bought it from Goodyear about 3 years ago. He has attempted to amend the collective bargaining agreement to make the plant competitive and is receiving little cooperation from the union. The union, in my opinion, does not feel the amendments are necessary and Titan can make money under the current rules. There are many other factors and personalities involved, but I just intend to give you the flavor of the situation. Morry has now made a strong indication that he has no choice but to close the plant. He is moving work to other locations and is conducting a rolling layoff. The workforce is down to less than 500 and the current agreement expires in about 14 months. The plant is a vital piece of our local economy adding about \$50 million in local wages. The jobs are important to Stephenson County, Freeport, and Illinois. I think it is time Congressman Manzullo get involved and try to broker a forum to save this investment in Illinois. I think he should reach out to Mr. Taylor and Mr. Vanderheyden to resolve this issue before it reaches the point of no return. I stand ready to support these efforts at the local level.”

- The Heritage Woods SLF is moving toward a spring 2009 ground breaking. The City of Freeport last week approved the enterprise zone extension with a condition that they get the enterprise zone fee. The collection and distribution of enterprise zone fees is the primary responsibility of the Enterprise Zone Committee. They will be meeting next week to continue the effort of developing a set of standardized criteria and consistent rules dealing with the enterprise zone fee. This issue will not impede the progress of the SLF.
- A letter and a proposed agreement were received from the Lena Park District asking Stephenson County to participate in a proposed recreational trail from Lena to Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park. The Lena Park District is submitting a grant application to the State for this project due March 1, 2009. Chairman Blum is referring this agreement to Mr. Mikkelsen and Mr. Groves for review and discussion at the February 2009 Planning and Development meeting.
- The Stephenson County Fair Board met with representatives of local agencies earlier this week to begin the process of planning for the 2009 County Fair. The Fair Board is under new leadership and we appreciate their efforts getting plans and efforts coordinated well in advance of the fair. This year the Fair is planned for July 14 thru the July 19.
- The Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold their annual meeting on Monday, February 2, 2009 at noon in the Four Seasons Banquet facility. Tickets are \$12 and RSVPs are required. Let Chairman Blum or Ms. Sheila Hooper know if you would like to attend.
- The UCCI workshop for County Board members is still planned for February 5, 2009 at Sauk Valley College. We have not been given the times or the specific agenda as yet. Information will be passed on to you as soon as it is received.
- The UCCI Legislative Reception is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 5 p.m. in Springfield. Chairman Blum plans to attend and if anyone is interested in going along, please let him know. Earlier the same day there will be presentations covering public safety, public facility, and transportation sales taxes and a presentation on the current Illinois economy. These presentations begin at 9:30 a.m.
- The 2009 Boyer Colloquium will be held at Highland College at 7 p.m. on January 22. The topic will be the issues and technologies of energy and global warming.

- Also on January 22, 2009 Johnson Controls is hosting a Renewable and Technologies conference in Joliet. The topics include energy security, wireless communications, wind power, and facilities improvements.
- On February 4, 2009 the Illinois Wind Working Group is holding a conference in Peoria on siting, zoning, and taxing of wind farms. Mr. Groves is attending. If you are interested see him for more information.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Chairman Blum presented the following appointments to the Enterprise Zone Committee;

- Peter Willging as County Member
- Ray Nieman as Alternate County Member

Ms. V. Hooper made a motion to approve the appointments as presented. Second by Mr. Parker. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the appointment of Peter Willging as County Member and Ray Nieman as Alternate County Member to the Enterprise Zone Committee carried with one nay vote noted.*

**Action Items from Standing Committee**

**Finance:** Mr. Graham stated no action had been taken in his Committee.

**Public Property:** Mr. Senn reported his Committee has recommended authorizing Chairman Blum to sign the loan documents, from Citizens State Bank, for the purchase of new squad cars. Mr. Senn made a motion to authorize Chairman Blum to sign the required loan agreement for the Sheriff's new squad cars. Second by Mr. Parker. Following discussion Ms. Boynton called for the question. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. Motion to call the question carried with two nay votes noted. The Chair called for a voice vote on the original motion. *Motion to authorize Chairman Blum to sign the required loan agreement, from Citizens State Bank, for purchase of new squad cars carried with two nay votes noted.*

The Sheriff needs to replace the tractor used to plow snow around the Courthouse. He has ordered a new John Deere Tractor with a snow blade and blower, for \$8,700. He will be using funds earned by transporting mental health patients to pay for the purchase. Mr. Senn made a motion to approve the purchase of the John Deere Tractor for \$8,700, using internal funds. Second by Ms. V. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the purchase of the John Deere Tractor using the Sheriff's internal funds carried unanimously.*

**Administration:** Ms. S. Hooper presented a Resolution requesting Congress to include General Revenue Sharing for units of Local Government in the Federal Economic Stimulus Program. Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the Resolution with the noted clarification of Stephenson County, Illinois. Second by Ms. V. Hooper. Mr. Wire and Mr. A. Kuhlemeier stated their concerns with the effect this will have on our future generations. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. Motion to approve Resolution #09-01-1637 requesting Congress to include General Revenue Sharing for units of Local Government in the Federal Economic Stimulus Program carried with nay votes noted.

Ms. S. Hooper noted a correction to the Raffles listed on the agenda and made a motion to approve the following Raffle with all fees and bonding in order;

Raffle #1490 for FHN Foundation, Manager Jackie Wehrenberg

Second by Mr. Parker. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the Raffle as presented carried unanimously.*

**Planning & Development:** Mr. Mikkelsen reported the third 5-year update to the County's Solid Waste Management Plan has been received. The Plan is updated annually with a more comprehensive update required every 5-years. The eventual goal is to have solid waste managed by the Health Department but the County needs a revenue stream to support solid waste management. The landfill is managed by the City of Freeport, by State Statute the County is required to generate and update the Solid Waste Management Plan. The Fehr-Graham proposal is within cost estimates and would be paid from the Waste Management Fund. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the Fehr-Graham proposal. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the Fehr-Graham proposal carried unanimously.*

**Information Items from Standing Committees**

**Administration:** Ms. S. Hooper reported her Committee had reviewed the Maximus proposal, but took no action.

**Court Services:** Ms. V. Hooper reported her Committee had approved two funding requests for Alternatives to Incarceration: Master Builders Ministries for \$2,500 and Boys and Girls Club of Freeport and Stephenson County for \$3,050.

**Nursing Center:** Mr. Détente reported the Nursing Center is sponsoring a fund raising dance for the Activity Department. The Red & White Ball will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Eagle’s Club. His Committee is looking at redoing the kitchen and dish room floors.

**CLAIMS**

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Finance & Procurement  | \$ 1,565,441.67 |
| Administration         | \$ 22,441.52    |
| Public Works           | \$ 143,611.71   |
| Nursing Center         | \$ 165,845.93   |
| Public Property        | \$ 40,842.79    |
| Court Services         | \$ 61,906.00    |
| Public Safety          | \$ 91,041.81    |
| Planning & Development | \$ 9,055.70     |
| 9-1-1                  | \$ 12,390.24    |

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the Claims as presented. Second by Mr. Détente. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Kinney, Détente, Senn and Blum. Not available: Ms. S. Hooper. Twenty-one ayes. Motion to approve the Claims as presented carried unanimously.

**Mileage & Per Diems** – Subject to review by Finance Chairman

Blum 8 days, 0 miles-Boynton 3 days, 70 miles-Brown 4 days, 10 miles-Detente 4 days, 92 miles-Devine 4 days, 16 miles-Dotson 2 days, 74 miles-Gilmour 5 days, 174 miles-Graham 8 days, 34 miles-Hilton 5 days, 14 miles-S Hooper 4 days, 8 miles-V Hooper 4 days, 8 miles-Kinney 3 days, 34 miles-Koch 3 days, 72 miles-A Kuhlemeier 3 days, 95 miles-J Kuhlmeier 5 days, 114 miles-McKenna 3 days, 12 miles-Mikkelsen 5 days, 10 miles-Newton 5 days, 72 miles- Parker 5 days, 20 miles-Senn 5 days, 70 miles-Willging 4 days, 16 miles-Wire 3 days, 118 miles. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the mileage and per diems. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. Motion to approve the mileage and per diems carried unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr. Wire reported he has been studying the financial reports and our revenues and reserves are depleted. With the promotion of wind-towers; the revenue being a one-time bonus is not there for the 2009 budget. He stated we need to realistically plan for 2010 revenues.

**MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Chairman Blum requested a motion to move into executive session to discuss Business Matters 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (5). Mr. Gilmour made the motion to move into executive session. Second by Mr. Graham. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Kinney, Détente, Senn and Blum. Motion to move into executive session to discuss Business Matters 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (5) carried unanimously.

**REGULAR SESSION:** Chairman Blum called the regular session back to order. He announced that Business Matters had been discussed in executive session with no action taken. Ms. S. Hooper made a motion that the Board authorizes proceeding with lease arrangements with the Stewart Centre for approximately 6,400 square feet in order to relocate the offices of the County Administrator, Assessor, Clerk and Recorder and Treasurer, to create more room for the Courts. Second by Ms. Devine. Mr. Kinney stated he would not support the motion and wanted more time to review the matter. Mr. Kinney made a motion to lay the matter over for 30 days. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion to layover. Motion failed. The

Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion to authorize proceeding with a lease agreement with the Stewart Centre. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, Boynton, Détente, Senn and Blum. Members voting nay: A. Kuhlmeier, Koch and Kinney. Nineteen aye. Three nay. *Motion to authorize proceeding with lease arrangements with the Stewart Centre for approximately 6,400 square feet in order to relocate the offices of the County Administrator, Assessor, Clerk and Recorder and Treasurer, to create more room for the Courts carried.*

**ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2009:** Ms. V. Hooper made a motion to adjourn until 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday February 11, 2009. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to adjourn carried unanimously at 8:43 p.m.*

*Mr. A. Kuhlmeier will lead the Pledge and Mr. Koch will be responsible for the Invocation at the February 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting*